

Water Supply Coordinating Council  
January 21, 2015  
Final Minutes

**ADMINISTRATIVE – John Barndt, Chair**

John called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The attendance list is below.

- Clarification of Official Water Supply Coordinating Council Representative/Designees/ Alternates – Heather Helmer was clarifying with members as they signed-in to make sure their official status and information is correct. [If you did not have a chance to clarify at this meeting, please do so at the next meeting. This is to make sure we have all member information current and accurate for future voting.]

**REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

John asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the September 17, 2014, draft meeting minutes. Joe DiNunzio commented that under the Water Utility Reports, the first bullet line with Artesian should be clarified as saying “Langollen wells and station should be back up and running at full capacity by the end of September”. Joe also stated that on Page 3, second line from the top, the word “prepared” is misspelled. Charles Jenner said that all typos that were previously pointed out when the draft meeting minutes were first sent out have been corrected. He did suggest that the final version of “Appendix C: WATER USE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THREE-PHASE DROUGHT OPERATING PLAN” was not included with these draft meeting minutes and asked if they could be sent out with today’s draft meeting minutes. Vic Singer approved and Ed Hallock seconded. (see attached “WATER USE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THREE-PHASE DROUGHT OPERATING PLAN”)

Final minutes will be posted online at <http://egov.delaware.gov/pmc/Event/Details/24169>

**WATER CONDITIONS REPORT – Stefanie Baxter, DGS**

Stefanie presented a handout summary as of January 19, 2015 of hydrologic conditions which is considered a snapshot of water conditions and are tracked on a monthly basis (see attachment titled Northern Delaware Drought Advisory Guidelines).

- October was a very dry month and the Water Index dropped into potential shortage range because the high precipitation in April dropped off the 6-month precipitation record.
- Precipitation over 12-month period +0.74” and over 6-month period -2.42” which might look bad but we were at -5” in October. Significant rainfall this past Sunday was a huge help. The -2.42” should go to a positive for the next report.
- 30-day moving avg: Brandywine Creek at 270 mgd, White Clay Creek-Stanton at 147 mgd and White Clay Creek-Newark at 63 mgd.
- Well Db24-18 at 13.9 (fbls) which is in the low normal range.
- Chlorides are being monitored.
- Hoopes Reservoir at -7 ft as of 1/5/15 and Newark Reservoir at -2.5 ft as of 1/6/15. Mark Neimeister stated that Newark is closer to full now.

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery: UWD 75 mg as of 1/6/15, Larry Finnicum agreed; and AWC 1.94 mg as of 11/3/14. Joe said 14 mg stored to date of the 130 mg capacity, and should be around 85 mg by Memorial Day.
- NYC Reservoirs are at 191.5 bg storage which is 57 bg above drought watch and storage is increasing.
- Kent County is doing great with the precipitation deficit shrinking from - 2.83" for 12-month period to - 0.25" for 5-month period for precipitation. Streamflow and groundwater are normal.
- Sussex County deficit has also shrunk from - 2.29" for 12-month period to + 0.06" for 5-month period. Streamflow and groundwater are both normal.
- Nanticoke River flow has increased from 18 mgd in October to 55 mgd currently.

To summarize, we are in good shape and it looks like we will be getting more precipitation today and during the upcoming week. Charles questioned how low Hoopes Reservoir was and thought it was worth addressing. Stefanie said this is due to maintenance. Jerry Kauffman said ice on Hoopes and also maintenance and clearing of trees. Matt Miller stated this is only operation maintenance issue only. Inspection of intake gates that were in bad condition.

Stefanie asked if there were any questions. There were none.

DGS' full analysis is found on <http://www.dgs.udel.edu>

### **FORECAST SYNOPSIS – Dan Leathers, State Climatologist**

Dan presented (see attachment titled Weather Summary and Forecast). Dan stated this is really a summary of 2014.

- Dan said it was an interesting year. It felt cool, it really was cool. Coolest year since 2003. Still above long-term mean. Nearly 4 degrees cooler than 2012 and that was the warmest year on record.
- 2014 precipitation was very close to normal across Delaware and ranked as the 65<sup>th</sup> wettest in the last 120 years. Precipitation normal. Ended up about 0.04" above normal but almost 8" less than 2013.
- Sussex County lightest precipitation and higher amounts of precipitation up north.
- Forecast calls for weak El Nino conditions through early summer 2015, but this forecast is problematic. El Nino really hasn't quite taken off but conditions possible February through April. Equal Chances (EC) during these months with precipitation and temperatures per NOAA.

Dan asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **WATER UTILITY REPORTS**

**Artesian – Joe DiNunzio presented:** Joe stated they are running a seasonal average of 17 mgd. The Langollen Station is back in full operation. ASR well in process of injecting

approximately 0.5 mgd to meet 85 mg by Memorial Day. 2.1 mgd of capacity will be back on line by summer with treatment for the Jefferson Farms and Airbase wells. Wilmington Manor Well #3 and Airport Industrial are also out of service and will be addressed in 2016.

**Newark - Mark Neimeister presented:** Mark stated they are running about average at 4 mgd. The motor in Well #15 burned up so it will be starting rehabilitation next week. A storage tank will also be offline for maintenance. Jerry asked if there is an update on the surface water plant expansion. Mark said at this point, no.

**New Castle – Jay Guyer presented:** Jay stated demands are average. On December 17, connection to Artesian Water Company was turned off with the installation and testing of the temporary carbon treatment unit for the PFOS. PFOS source not traced yet but the U.S. EPA has taken the lead on the investigation. Joe and Jerry stated if it is traced back to base they need to know. Temporary carbon system installed and it removes these contaminants from water. Contamination levels have remained consistent for the last six months.

**United Water Delaware – Larry Finnicum presented:** Seasonal demand at 16 mgd. ASR is fully charged at 75 mg. Since November 1 there have been 44 main breaks. Projects set for the spring in tank maintenance and paint on three tanks throughout the year. Wrapped up in late fall. Phase I of SCADA<sup>1</sup> upgrade near completion. John stated that Doug Rambo of the Source Water Protection Program has been working on sampling chlorides in that area. David Wunsch asked if this included surface water sampling. John stated it is only surface water and that anyone who has questions about the project can contact Doug for specific details.

**Wilmington– Matt Miller presented:** Average of 15.3 mgd and max 19 mgd. Reservoir at 83.5%. Membrane plant going through grand re-opening this week after being down. Upcoming raceway work this year.

**Tidewater – Sheila Shannon presented:** Sheila stated she did not have a chance to get January's information. Up 6.5% in 2014 compared to 2013. Total in 2014 of 1.984 bg. By county 2014 compared to 2013 are as follows:

- Sussex – up 9% (1.24 billion)
- Kent – up 3% (568 million)
- New Castle – down 1.2% (175 million)

Sheila stated that PFOS found in wells at the DAFB site of the C5 crash several years ago. Nothing detected in the drinking water wells. Laura Mensch asked what analytical methods are being used for PFOS because she has a monitoring well near that site. Ed said to send him an email and he can determine. Laura said she would e-mail Sheila and Ed after the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> **SCADA** (*supervisory control and data acquisition*) is a system operating with coded signals over communication channels so as to provide control of remote equipment (using typically one communication channel per remote station).

**Sussex Shores** – Not present.

**PLANNING FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY REPORTING FOR JUNE 2015 DEADLINE –  
Jerry Kauffman, University of Delaware, Water Resources Agency**

Jerry presented handouts (see attachments, subsequently revised, titled Self-Sufficiency Act 2015 and NCC Water Demands). Per Executive Order #74, the Delaware Self-Sufficient Water Supply Act report is required every three years and submitted to the Water Supply Coordinating Council for approval. In May/June the General Assembly formalized it for a three-year period. The General Assembly liked it so much they extended Council twice. Vote needed by March 1. Voice votes have occurred in the past. Jerry stated there is a surplus between supply and demand.

Stefanie asked why is there reporting every five years and not every 10 or 15 years? Jerry stated that this is a good question. He stated that conditions have changed and reporting is more accurate every five years. Joe also stated that change in demographics had an effect. Joe suggested that if there are any questions or concerns to contact Jerry and John. Larry agreed. Joe stated that it would be nice to have an e-mail vote by February. Vic asked if an e-mail vote is permissible by law. Sometimes it is and sometimes it isn't he stated. Jerry stated we have done e-mail votes in the past. Vic stated that someone needs to look into it regardless of what has been done in the past. He said because we have done it in the past doesn't mean that it's right. David stated that maybe if there isn't a quorum you can do it. Jerry suggested that John contact the Deputy Attorney General's office to find out if it is alright under Delaware Code to do an e-mail vote. John agreed. Vic said to narrowly approach the Deputy Attorney General's office and state "from now and going forward" in regards to e-mail votes. Vic said that this is appropriate to recognize per FOIA. Joe suggested that if that is a problem we could still have a consensus by e-mail for ratification at the next meeting on April 29. John stated that all questions and comments should be given to Jerry by February 13. Jerry will then incorporate comments and revise the Memorandum.

Vic elaborated on the proper voting steps and raised an issue with respect to the building of new utility water infrastructure to meet self-sufficiency requirements. He noted that would require Public Service Commission review. Robert Howatt said that ultimately the Public Service Commission will do what they want to do with respect to approving new investment. He really doesn't think it is a huge issue as utilities are expected to invest to meet the peak demand and that is usually approved, Robert stated.

John said, to summarize, February 13 all water utilities will get back to Jerry and copy John on Memorandum comments. April 29 is the next Water Supply Coordinating Council meeting and a status report will be on the Agenda on where the water utilities are at. John will contact the Deputy Attorney General's office regarding e-mail votes. Looking at the fall Water Supply Coordinating Council meeting for a verbal vote.

## **DELAWARE GROUNDWATER MONITORING STUDY – Scott Andres, DGS**

Scott presented an update on the final project for Southern New Castle County (SNCC) (see attachments titled Delaware Groundwater Monitoring and Draft Resolution).

- More of an overview of general topics than technical of what they've learned and what they should be preparing for.
- \$600,000 budget was approved for this Infrastructure Project.
- David stated there are multiple wells at each of the eight sites.
- Arsenic in the Rancocas Aquifer – project being conducted by DNREC, Water Supply Section. Scott said radon also tested.
- Planning needs to begin on sea level rise. "Summary of Southern New Castle – Northern Kent Counties Groundwater Monitoring Project - Final Contract Report" given to DNREC (Scott to e-mail this report to Council).
- David said he hopes to present the national effort Groundwater Monitoring Network at the next Water Supply Coordinating Council meeting.
- Scott stated this topic will come back around again. Scott presented the DRAFT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WELL NETWORK TO MONITOR GROUND-WATER LEVELS AND QUALITY, AND TO EVALUATE THE AVAILABILITY OF GROUND WATER IN KENT COUNTY. John said he was copied on this draft by e-mail and has made a few changes to it. First time that the Water Supply Coordinating Council is seeing this draft but would like to have their endorsement. It would be transmitted to the Governor's office and the Secretary's office and whoever needs to see it for backing of funds. Jerry presented benefits of why this should be adopted. He said it's a good idea and a good investment. There will be more demands in the future for water. Vic motioned to adopt. Suggestions were then made by several Council members in regards to the word "WHEREAS" throughout the draft. Charles brought up that there is already a motion on the floor to adopt. Joe stated that some members of the Council were not present at the meeting and weren't aware of a motion that was to be made at the meeting. Robert stated the Public Advocate for one was not present. Jerry stated that because the new Dover Power Plant will be coming online later this year, a vote should be made. Joe stated he was more than prepared to support this resolution. However, he thinks the Public Advocate should be given a chance to vote before going to General Assembly. Charles suggested that maybe Robert could bring it to the attention of the Public Advocate. John stated he will send out a revised draft. Jerry said to send it to the entire Council but they still need to act on it today.
- John again presented the motion to modify and edit the draft. All present voted in favor to adopt, none opposed.(see attached final adopted and signed resolution).

## **NEXT MEETING – John Barndt**

John said the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kent County Administration Building, Room 220.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. by John Barndt.

These minutes are not intended to be a detailed record. They are for the use of the Water Supply Coordinating Council members in supplementing their personal notes and recall of Council discussions and presentations and to provide information to Council members unable to attend. Minutes recorded and submitted by Kimberly Burris.

Attendees are listed below alphabetically, last name first:

Andres, A. Scott – University of Delaware, DGS  
Barndt, John - DNREC, Division of Water  
Barr, J. Kent - DRBC  
Baxter, Stefanie - University of Delaware, DGS  
Beatti, Jessica – Artesian Water  
Budischak, Valann – Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association  
deLorimier, Tom – Artesian Water  
DiNunzio, Joseph – Artesian Water  
Eisenbrey, Virginia – Artesian Water  
Finnicum, Larry – United Water  
Gray, Mary Ellen – Kent County  
Guyer, Jay – Municipal Services Commission, City of New Castle  
Hallock, Ed – Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water  
Homsey, Andrew – University of Delaware, Water Resources Agency  
Howatt, Robert – Delaware Public Service Commission  
Jenner, Charles – Delaware Grounds Management Association  
Kauffman, Gerald (Jerry) - University of Delaware, Water Resources Agency, Director  
Leathers, Daniel – State Climatologist  
Mensch, Laura - Department of Agriculture  
Miller, Matt - City of Wilmington  
Najjar, Kenneth - DRBC  
Neimeister, Mark – City of Newark  
Patone, Pamela – New Castle County  
Paul, Arthur - DEMA  
Roth, Thomas – Sussex County Association of Towns, Town of Henlopen Acres  
Rudd, John - State Fire Marshal  
Shannon, Sheila - Tidewater Utilities  
Singer, Victor - Civic League for New Castle County  
Wollaston, Martin – University of Delaware, Water Resources Agency  
Wunsch, David – University of Delaware, DGS